



May 6, 2005



Five-year federal sentence for man linked to substation shooting

A federal judge today sentenced **Dara Veng**, of Providence, to five years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a pistol that Providence Police detectives found in the basement of his apartment in November 2003. Evidence presented at the sentencing hearing identified that pistol as the one that had been used to shoot up the Providence Police substation on Camp Street.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Torres said that he was persuaded that Veng was the person who shot up the substation.

In January, as his federal trial was about to start, Veng pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that Veng had a loaded, nine-millimeter handgun in the basement of his residence at 2 Queen Street on November 8 2003. Detectives searching the residence seized the pistol and a loaded magazine, which were hidden in a tire. A box of ammunition was nearby and officers also found in the basement an aluminum storm door, riddled with bullet holes.

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Six-days earlier, on November 2, 2003, someone using a nine-millimeter gun riddled the Providence Police Mount Hope substation on Camp Street with 22 bullets. After police seized the gun from Veng's basement, the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory conducted a ballistics analysis and identified Veng's gun as the one used in the shooting. Judge Torres concluded at the sentencing that the evidence was sufficient to tie Veng to the substation shooting.

Veng, 23, has prior felony convictions for drug trafficking, breaking and entering, and possessing a stolen motor vehicle.

Providence Police, led by the late **Detective Sergeant James L. Allen**, investigated the case, along with the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Goldstein prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

-30-

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